



Business Advisors to Private Companies and Family Enterprises

Immediate Tax Relief for Haiti Earthquake Donations

Taxpayers making monetary contributions in early 2010 to help Haiti after the devastating January 12 earthquake will be able to claim a deduction on their 2009 federal tax returns. Taxpayers must itemize their deductions to take advantage of this special tax relief provision.

Contributions must be monetary and must be made to a domestic qualified charitable organization that is assisting Haiti. Contributions made after January 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, qualify for this special treatment. Donations by check or credit card qualify; however, contributions of marketable securities or other property easily convertible into cash cannot be accelerated.

Contributions to qualified charities assisting Haiti must be substantiated. Generally, the taxpayer must have a bank record or written communication from the qualified charitable organization showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. In this case, individuals who make monetary contributions through their cellular telephones via text message may also substantiate their contributions with their telephone bills. The telephone bill must show the name of the charitable organization, the date, and the amount of the contribution.

If you are not sure if you qualify for this deduction, please contact Mary-Kay Leary at 410-296-6200 or Mary-Kay@mksh.com so we can assist you.

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